(c) if not, by when these villages will get the status of the revenue village; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to discuss the matter with State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) As per information received from Government of Uttaranchal, the number of forest villages in Uttaranchal is 99 (ninety nine).

(b) No.

(c) and (d) Government of Uttaranchal has not submitted any proposal for conversion of forest villages into revenue villages to the Ministry of Environment & Forests.

Policy against illegal deforestation

†1387. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate any policy against illegal deforestation and for the afforestation of barren land; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) and (b) These issues have already been addressed to in the National Forest Policy, 1988 and other relevant Acts. As per the National Forest Policy of 1988, one-third of the total land area of the country should be under forest or tree cover. The tenth plan approach paper has further fixed the timeframe for achieving the targets set by National Forest Policy by 2012. The Ministry is implementing number of schemes to protect and conserve existing forest and afforest the barren and degraded land. Under the National Afforestation Programme funds are being provided to Forest Development Agencies (FDA) for regeneration of degraded/barren lands through cooperation of local communities.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.